

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 172477  
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:WNHOWELL:PDW  
APPROVED BY NEA:AMB. STERNER  
NEA/ARN:MDRAPER  
S/S-O:JTHYDEN  
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O 080215Z JUL 78 ZFF6  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE  
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AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE  
WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE 0000  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

S E C R E T STATE 172477

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, XF, US

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PAGE 02 STATE 172477

SUBJECT: BRIEFING ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE

1. FOR DAMASCUS: YOU SHOULD SEEK AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO  
SHARE WITH KHADDAM OR QADDUR OUR CURRENT VIEW OF PEACE  
PROCESS, DRAWING ON TALKING POINTS PARA 3 BELOW.

2. FOR OTHER ADDRESSEE POSTS: IN YOUR CONVERSATIONS WITH

APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, MISSION SHOULD DRAW UPON FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS, OMITTING FIRST AND FINAL POINTS APPLICABLE TO DAMASCUS ONLY.

3. FOLLOWING IS CURRENT USG APPRECIATION OF WHERE WE STAND IN OUR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE AN ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE SETTLEMENT:

-- (FOR DAMASCUS) IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR CONTINUING EXCHANGES ON ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN, WE WISH TO KEEP THE SYRIANS INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PEACE EFFORT. WE ARE AWARE OF THEIR VIEWS REGARDING THE SADAT INITIATIVE. HOWEVER, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING ALSO THAT SYRIA'S CONTINUED ADHERENCE TO THE CONCEPT OF A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT UNDER 242 REMAINS FIRM, WHICH, AS PRESIDENT CARTER HAS RECENTLY REITERATED, ALSO REMAINS THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF

UNITED STATES POLICY. WITH THIS IN MIND, WE HOPE THAT SYRIA, EVEN IF IT IS UNABLE TO GIVE SUPPORT TO THE FORTHCOMING FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN LONDON, WILL AT LEAST BE RESTRAINED IN ITS PUBLIC COMMENT.

-- WE HAVE BEEN EXAMINING IN RECENT DAYS VARIOUS NEXT STEPS WE MIGHT TAKE IN THE WAKE OF THE DISAPPOINTING ISRAELI RESPONSES TO OUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK/GAZA. WE CONSIDER IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT  
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THAT AN IMPASSE NOT DEVELOP AT THIS TIME. WE ALSO CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT TO SHOW THE ENDURING STRENGTH OF THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO FIND A BASIC FRAMEWORK FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT, WHATEVER THE DIFFICULTIES WE ENCOUNTER IN MOVING ALONG THIS PATH.

-- PRESIDENT CARTER THEREFORE INVITED THE EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS TO SEND FOREIGN MINISTERS DAYAN AND KAMEL TO LONDON FOR TWO DAYS OF MEETINGS JULY 18-19, WITH SECRETARY VANCE PRESENT, AFTER THE EUROPEAN SUMMIT. THIS WAS PRESIDENT CARTER'S INITIATIVE; THE CONCEPT DID NOT COME FROM ISRAEL OR EGYPT. SADAT HAS ACCEPTED AND WE ANTICIPATE ISRAELI ACCEPTANCE AFTER THEY HAVE STUDIED THE EGYPTIAN COUNTER-PROPOSAL ON THE WEST BANK/GAZA WHICH WE HAVE NOW TRANSMITTED TO THEM.

-- WE HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT NO PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE IN THE ABSENCE OF ACTIVE AND ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES. MEETING OF EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD BE A NEW STEP IN THIS DIRECTION. U.S. WANTS TO HELP THE PARTIES NARROW THE DIFFERENCES SEPARATING THEM IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON A FRAMEWORK OF PRINCIPLES

FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT, BUT OUR EFFORTS CAN BE MOST EFFECTIVE ONLY WHEN THE PARTIES ARE NEGOTIATING WITH EACH OTHER.

-- PEACE PROCESS IS MORE THAN WHAT BOTH SIDES ARE WILLING TO SET DOWN ON PAPER AT GIVEN TIME. IT ALSO INVOLVES INTERNAL POLITICAL DEBATE WHICH IS SOMETIMES LENGTHY BUT IS ONLY WAY TO GENERATE MOVEMENT TO MORE FORTHCOMING POSITIONS. WE THINK INTERNAL DEBATE IN ISRAEL HAS CONTRIBUTED TO SUCH MOVEMENT AND WOULD NOTE SPECIFICALLY THAT ISRAELI CABINET WAS NOT UNANIMOUS IN SUPPORT OF RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTIONS, WITH BOTH WEIZMAN AND YADIN GROUP IN OPPOSITION.

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-- AS WE MOVE FORWARD OVER THE WEEKS AHEAD, IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE FULL SUPPORT OF U.S. OPINION, WHERE PERCEPTION IS WIDESPREAD THAT PRESENT IMPASSE RESULTS AT LEAST IN PART

FROM FACT DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED SINCE SADAT WITHDREW HIS DELEGATION FROM JERUSALEM POLITICAL COMMITTEE TALKS. FOR U.S. TO BE ACTIVE IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE NO NEGOTIATIONS WERE GOING ON WOULD BE PERCEIVED AS PREEMPTING POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES THEMSELVES.

-- WE WOULD NOT EXPECT LONDON TALKS IN THEMSELVES TO BRING ANY DRAMATIC BREAKTHROUGHS, BUT THEY COULD BE USEFUL IN PROBING POSITIONS AND PROPOSALS OF BOTH SIDES, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO PRINCIPLES GOVERNING AN ULTIMATE SETTLEMENT OF WEST BANK/GAZA QUESTION, AND PREPARING GROUND FOR WHAT WE SEE AS CONTINUING PROCESS WHICH COULD INCLUDE VISIT OF SECRETARY VANCE TO AREA AND CONSULTATIONS WITH PARTIES ABOUT U.S. IDEAS WHICH COULD HELP BRIDGE GAPS AND PAVE THE WAY FOR PROGRESS TOWARD A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT.

-- THESE CONSIDERATIONS UNDER PINNED PRESIDENT CARTER'S INITIATIVE IN PROPOSING THE LONDON MEETING AND INVITING THE EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTERS TO ATTEND.

-- WE HOPE THAT SYRIA WILL NOT RUSH TO JUDGMENT ON THIS U.S. INITIATIVE, AND CRITICIZE WHAT IS HAPPENING. WE HOPE THAT SYRIA WILL ALLOW A FULL OPPORTUNITY TO CARRY OUT THE MORE ACTIVE U.S. ROLE WE ENVISAGE.

4. FOR TEHRAN: YOU SHOULD FEEL FREE TO USE THESE TALKING POINTS TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE IRANIAN OFFICIALS WITH  
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STATUS REPORT ON PRESENT USG EFFORTS. VANCE

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S/S:SVALERGA

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AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T STATE 172477

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 172477 SENT ACTION DAMASCUS, KUWAIT,  
ABU DHABI, MUSCAT, MANAMA, DOHA, TUNIS, ALGIERS, RABAT, KHARTOUM,  
SANA, TEHRAN, INFO BAGHDAD, TRIPOLI, WHITE HOUSE, BEIRUT  
08 JUL 78

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 172477

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, XF, US

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UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER  
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## Message Attributes

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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, US, XF, IS, EG  
**To:** DAMASCUS KUWAIT MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/e29fe378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
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